



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Maria Velasquez, Communications Director: (619) 235-5725 (pager & voicemail) mvelasquez@saniego.gov

CITY ATTORNEY RESPONDS TO FITCH RATINGS DOWNGRADE OF CITY'S CREDIT RATING

San Diego, CA: San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre held a press availability late this afternoon in response to media requests regarding today's announcement by Fitch Ratings to downgrade the City's credit rating.

"The downgrade shows that the Mayor and City Council are continuing to mismanage the City's finances. Their blind defense of hundreds of millions of dollars of illegal pension benefits is destroying the long term credit rating of the City," said City Attorney Aguirre. "We must set aside this massive illegal debt, and the Mayor should start by revoking the hundreds of thousands of dollars of illegal benefits he stands to receive," Aguirre continued.

The City Attorney also responded to a comment made by the City Manager that blamed the City Attorney for the lack of political consensus. "The current political consensus by the Mayor and City Council is to continue the misguided policies that resulted in the loss of the City's credit rating," Aguirre said. We need to demonstrate the integrity of a united political will that embraces the right policies and not more of the same, he said. Aguirre worries that "San Diego will not be able to survive 50 more days of Mayor Murphy's failed leadership."

In addition, the City Attorney cited an error contained in the news release by Fitch Ratings suggesting the City Attorney supports bankruptcy as a means to solve the City's financial crisis. In previous news conferences and as recently as yesterday, Aguirre has stated that he does not believe bankruptcy is the method by which to solve the City's financial crisis because it is too broad an action to take. Instead, Aguirre supports placing the pension system in a receivership because that is where the fiscal problems are isolated and where they should be addressed.

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